

NATURE CONSERVATION NEWS

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
LIBRARY
NEW LONDON, CONN.

APR 30 '66

APR 30 '66

VOL. 5 - No. 2

MAY 1955

PARKS POLICY CONFERENCE

"Parks and Open Spaces for the American People" is the theme of the 1955 National Citizens Planning Conference, scheduled to be held at the Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C., May 22 to 25.

The Conference, called by the American Planning and Civic Association, will explore what parks and open spaces mean to the American people, twentieth century park policy, and ways and means of acquiring and administering regional open spaces. Our unprecedented population growth and economic activity pose grave problems which make this Conference extremely important.

"This is not an annual meeting to check on the year's progress", says the American Planning and Civic Association. "It is a cooperative conference, participated in by the leading planning and conservation organizations of the country, especially designed to examine and meet a crisis which has been building up for a generation. The Conference will seek ways and means to rescue the outdoor heritage of the American people from the many conflicting demands to which it is subjected. Even the recognized standards of the past need revision if our expanding urban population, living in close quarters, is to find convenient access to those scenic, wilderness and wildlife areas with which the United States was once so richly endowed and which still exist in considerable degree if they are protected from the many threatened encroachments."

All interested citizens, public officials, and professional leaders are invited to attend. Nature Conservancy is one of the sponsors and members are urged to take part. For further information write to the American Planning and Civic Association, 901 Union Trust Building, Washington 5, D. C.

"FREE LAND" FOR HIGHWAYS?

The automobile displaced the horse and now threatens to also put parks and natural areas in the discard heap. Open spaces hold a magnetic attraction for highway planners who see them as waste land waiting to be put to use. Parks and natural areas throughout the country

More people, more cars, and more leisure are each year increasing our use of parks and need for open spaces. At the same time these open spaces are in demand for highways, housing and other developments, and for their resources as timber or grazing land.

Herewith we review a few of many current threats to our wild lands. It can be a gloomy picture for those concerned with the future of our parks. At the same time there is encouraging news of a coming conference to consider the problems of parks and open spaces for the American people. There is also encouragement in the increasing defense of our park lands and in new efforts to set aside outstanding natural areas.

are being jeopardized with increasing frequency as increased traffic forces expressway construction in suburban regions. Serious threats currently exist in Washington, D.C.; Elgin, Illinois; and on Long Island.

Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia and near-by Maryland, considered by many to be the finest wilderness area remaining within the borders of any city in the world, is threatened by highway plans. Maryland has proposed an expressway through a portion of its section of the park. If constructed this would, of necessity, result in great pressure to continue the highway on through the District of Columbia portion of the park. Residents fighting construction of the Maryland road recently lost their case in a federal court, but are appealing the decision. A Senate Joint Resolution, S. J. Res. 36, would block the proposed construction. The measure, sponsored by Senators George W. Malone and James E. Murray (Mont.), Richard L. Neuberger (Ore.) and Henry C. Dworshak (Idaho), has been sent to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs for further study. Construction of the highway would also open the door to exploitation of other federal parks throughout the country in the opinion of many conservationists and others.

The lower portion of the historic Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in Washington is also being threatened. A proposed four-lane divided parkway would follow the east bank of the canal as closely as terrain permits. Houses built in recent years have reduced the space for the parkway since the plans were originally drawn up a number of years ago. Construction of the roadway by the National Park Service will begin soon. It will run from Chain Bridge to Great Falls. Opponents claim a parallel existing highway an average of two blocks away could be improved to serve the purpose.

Tackapausha Preserve in Nassau County, Long Island, supports an unusual variety of wildlife, including some plants not found elsewhere on Long Island. A Museum of Long Island Natural History has been set up in conjunction with the 600' by 1½ mile preserve, which runs north and south on the Seaford-Massapequa border. An estimated 75,000 people visited the area in 1954 and extensive studies were made by groups from Hofstra

NATURE CONSERVANCY

4200 22ND STREET, N.E.

WASHINGTON 18, D. C.

and Adelphi Colleges, Farmingdale Institute and the American Museum of Natural History. The original purpose of the preserve -- to keep Seaford Creek for use as a trunk line watercourse to receive storm drainage from adjacent town and county roads, is still valid. Nassau County officials propose to sacrifice the preserve to help overcome opposition from property owners to the \$35 million Oyster Bay-Wantagh Expressway.

Still another highway -- this time a toll road designed to run from Chicago to the Wisconsin border -- would divide the "Elgin Botanical Garden", 54 acre site of calcareous springs with arbor vitae and other interesting vegetation. The tract, a part of the Elgin park system, is an important natural area. Again, the route was planned to avoid built-up areas. The Elgin Conservation Council is leading the drive to save the tract. The highway is a project of the Illinois Toll Roads Commission, 160 N. LaSalle St., Chicago.

NATURE CONSERVANCY NOTES

A NEW SECRETARY

Mr. Daniel Smiley of Mohonk Lake, New York, has accepted the position of Secretary of the Nature Conservancy recently vacated by the resignation of Dr. Herbert C. Hanson of Washington, D.C. Mr. Smiley is a graduate and a member of the Board of Trustees of Haverford College. He has long been an enthusiastic naturalist and has participated actively in the Eastern New York Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

HELP WANTED

From time to time Nature Conservancy has an opening on its staff. We anticipate that during the next few months we may be able to include someone to help with organizational problems. If you are available and qualified to work on this or other phases of nature preservation activities, let us hear from you.

MIANUS RIVER GORGE

The Mianus Gorge Committee of Nature Conservancy reports it has raised \$18,500 in its current campaign toward the purchase price of \$30,000 for a tract in the Gorge. Additional contributions are urgently needed. The Gorge is on the Connecticut-New York line within commuting distance of New York City. Wood ducks and pileated woodpeckers nest in this outstanding sanctuary.

Brochures describing the Mianus Gorge and Dome Island projects are available from the central office.

CORKSCREW SWAMP CAMPAIGN

Response to the appeal for funds for the Corkscrew Swamp project has been gratifying. Through the joint efforts of the National Audubon Society and Nature Conservancy, the amount needed for acquisition has nearly been reached. Nature Conservancy still seeks \$650 to meet its minimum obligations for the project.

ANOTHER TRAMWAY THREAT!

Mount Greylock Reservation in Massachusetts is currently threatened by Mass. Senate Bill 669. The bill is the latest in a series of attacks on the unique spruce and balsam covered mountain which has attracted over 90,000 visitors in a season. It would give an already created Tramway Authority further power to encroach on one of the State's most valuable natural areas, allowing land use policies to be governed for maximum financial return for investors rather than for the highest types of recreation and education for the public. By this means the Tramway Authority apparently hopes to bolster up sale of its bonds. Despite this the project seems on very insecure footing since the "visible patronage" for the proposed tramway is said to be no more than one-tenth of what would be required to make it pay.

It is interesting to note that this case is similar to the proposed Mount San Jacinto Tramway in southern California, currently being fought by western conservation groups.

"Probably we do need to make the re-creating powers of Greylock available to more people", says Dr. John W. Brainerd, Conservancy representative for Massachusetts. "But granted that different people derive pleasure and relaxation from different experiences, it still seems that a mountain like Mt. Greylock should be allowed to rise relatively unmarred, not only above our Western Massachusetts hills but also above the profiteering clatter of our worldly economy. The dollars from 'development' are sometimes less valuable to our society than the sense of forest silence. And we need to tell our legislators so --at once."

CLEARWATER RIVER DAMS

Wildlife conservationists are marshalling forces in Idaho, Oregon and Washington to oppose construction of the Bruce's Eddy and Penny Cliffs dams proposed on Idaho's Clearwater River.

First public proposals to build the dams were made by the Corps of Army Engineers at a hearing in Orofino, Idaho, November 30, 1953, with an authorizing bill introduced by Representative Homer Angell of Oregon in Congress on May 4, 1954. However, no action was taken on the bill before adjournment of the 83rd Congress.

Opponents of the proposed dams, whose total cost is estimated at \$309 million, charge that vital winter ranges of one of the nation's largest elk herds would be flooded out, while runs of steelhead trout and chinook salmon which use the Clearwater spawning beds would be almost completely destroyed.

Conservationists are fighting for time to make adequate studies to determine the long-range effects on fish, wildlife, wilderness and water resources of the region. Local opponents have also noted that the water use policy of the Snake River system as a whole is the center of controversy. The Army Engineers contend

that the points brought up by opponents of the dams have been fully investigated and do not support staying construction.

Announcement of the Army Engineers' recommendations was followed by a request from the Pacific Northwest Power Company to the Federal Power Commission for a preliminary permit to investigate the Bruce's Eddy and Penny Cliffs sites. The permit, which does not authorize construction, was approved over the protests of more than 400 people.

DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Senate has passed, 58 to 23, and sent to the House S. 500, a bill to authorize "initial phases" of the Colorado Storage Project, including controversial Echo Park Dam in Dinosaur National Monument.

Shortly before the final vote an amendment offered by Senator Richard L. Neuberger (Ore.) to strike Echo Park Dam from the project was voted down, 52 to 30. The Senate had been expected to pass the measure, with hopes of saving Dinosaur National Monument centered in the House of Representatives. The House is usually considered more sensitive to general opinion.

Total construction cost of Echo Park Dam is estimated at \$176.5 million. The dam would flood the scenic canyons of the Green and Yampa Rivers in the heart of Dinosaur National Monument. Opponents of the bill contend the dam would destroy the unique natural features for which Dinosaur Monument was enlarged in 1938 and would also set a precedent for construction of similar projects in other national parks and monuments.

Opponents have also hit hard at the economic aspects of the whole project, characterized by Senator Paul H. Douglas of Illinois as "the biggest boondoggle I have ever heard of". Senator Douglas charged that the \$1,658 million estimated cost of the initial project would be more than doubled, judging by past Bureau of Reclamation estimates. He also pointed out that the estimate did not contain the \$1,100 million interest cost that would mount up during a period of at least 60 years. Senator Thomas H. Kuchel of California said that "Of the 39 separate works enumerated in this bill, formal feasibility reports exist only for 14 at this stage. There is one partial report on two units and a report subject to review on the seventeenth. In the light of these facts, it is exceedingly difficult to see how the sponsors of this program can maintain as they do on page 13 of the majority report that 'the Colorado River Storage project and participating projects plan is financially sound'."

The House Irrigation Subcommittee, which wound up public hearings March 28, is scheduled to consider the bill in executive session the week of June 6.

Among the final public witnesses was Senator Arthur V. Watkins (Utah), a leading proponent of the bill, who

Among the organizations which have gone on record as opposing the dam are the Izaak Walton League of America, National Parks Association, Wilderness Society, Wildlife Management Institute, National Fisheries Institute, National Wildlife Federation and Outdoor Writers Association. These organizations are also expected to oppose Pacific Northwest's application for a construction permit and to request a hearing before FPC on the application. Application for the permit is expected to be filed in the next few months.

presented a legal brief purporting to show that a series of power and reclamation reservations filed in the late 1880's and early 1900's encompassed virtually the entire course of the Green and Yampa Rivers. The Utah Senator contended these reservations are still in force.

However, Congressman John P. Saylor (Pa.), a committee member and leading opponent of Echo Park Dam, pointed out that an Interior Department Solicitor's ruling clearly states that the Presidential proclamation enlarging Dinosaur National Monument superseded and cancelled all previous executive agency withdrawals and reservations with the single exception of the reclamation reservation at the Browns Park dam site in the extreme northern tip of the monument area.

BANANAS ON PIKE'S PEAK?

With hardly a ripple, the Senate has coolly authorized a series of public power and reclamation projects for the Upper Colorado basin states at a cost that even the notoriously inadequate official estimates place at more than a billion and a half dollars. The power will be produced at fantastically high rates; the irrigation per acre will cost many times the conceivable value of the land; and as an incidental by-product the National Park System of the United States will be threatened with ultimate destruction.

This newspaper is all for developing the underdeveloped areas of our country where feasible; but we do believe that large-scale developments ought to have some realistic relation to expected costs and benefits. It would of course be possible to grow bananas on top of the Rockies if one wanted to spend the money; but the question is, couldn't this money be spent more advantageously elsewhere? Hydroelectric power is important to the West, but is it essential to produce hydroelectric power at great cost when steam power can be produced in the same area at a fraction of the price? And when atomic power is around the corner? Even such an able defender of public power as Senator Neuberger concedes that Upper Colorado power will be pro-

duced at a rate so high it "precludes extensive use for competitive manufacturing."

It is strange to find the Eisenhower Administration, so devoted to good business management, so enthusiastic over the Upper Colorado. No "partnership" is involved here, presumably because no business man in his right mind would invest in it. And even if the economics were sound there remains the impact that Echo Park Dam, one of the units of the power and water-storage complex, would have on the national parks of the United States. This dam would raise its 690 feet right in the middle of one of the finest protected areas of natural scenery in the country, and would flood two magnificent river canyons for many miles.

To construct it would set a ruinous precedent for invasion of other national parks and monuments, many of which are threatened by power, lumber or other interests. Figures supplied by the Reclamation Bureau to prove the necessity for this dam have been proved wrong time and time again. Alternate sites have been proposed by competent engineers. There is no good reason for rushing ahead with this dam, to supply doubtful power needs decades hence, until careful studies of the alternatives have been made.

--Reprinted from The New York Times, 4-24-55

TOURISM AND CONSERVATION

The tourist industry has taken its place in the ranks of major industry here in the United States and throughout the entire world. The rise in the tourist trade has left great economic benefits in its wake. At the same time it has become apparent that millions of visitors in our parks and scenic areas can cause serious damage.

The recently issued Proceedings and Papers of the Fourth Technical Meeting of the International Union for the Protection of Nature, held at Salzburg, Austria, in September 1953 contains a thorough discussion of the tourism problem.

Closer cooperation between conservation organizations and the tourist industry were among the solutions advocated. A delegate pointed out that nature is really the raw material of the tourist industry, which should do everything within its power to preserve and conserve that material. The tourist industry has become organized on a national and international, as well as on a local scale, in recent years to meet the great expansion in travel, and can well afford to lend financial support to preserve the areas upon which its livelihood is basically dependent. An example was cited where an important tourist agency has defrayed the entire cost of a drinking place for wild animals in Africa.

The work of the Federation of Associations for the Protection of Nature in Holland has been greatly facilitated by financial support provided by the Royal Netherlands Touring Club, which boasts a membership of 300,000. The support comes as both financial aid and spreading the idea of protection.

A union of hunters and nature protectors in Germany

has proven successful. Proposals were made to set up such unions in countries where they do not yet operate.

The necessity of discouraging or limiting visitors to special areas maintained as strict nature reserves and of seeing that highways are built in a manner that will not upset the balance of the landscape, as well as preparation of an international illustrated code of behaviour in relation to nature were also discussed.

Lt. Colonel C. L. Boyle of the Fauna Preservation Society, London, noted that "enough has been written to show the extreme complexity of the problem of visitors to national parks. To allow and encourage visitors is essential, for otherwise the parks will lack public support. It is only with public support that attacks by commercial interests, and even government departments, can be repelled. The visitors may, by their very numbers, endanger the existence of the parks; but the apparent paradox between tourists and conservation can be resolved if all other considerations remain subservient to the true object of the parks, the preservation of the natural scene."

In a further discussion of this problem, E. Max Nicholson, director-general of The Nature Conservancy, London, said "it is possible also that a growing number of creatures will manage to adapt themselves to a degree of disturbance which they at present find intolerable and for this reason it is particularly important to set up nature reserves and wildfowl refuges in tourist areas where fauna can get used to the condition of not being shot at and are not forced to make the worst of both worlds by having to be as shy as if the area were a game preserve and yet to accept the much higher rate of disturbance inherent in tourist development".

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

President:

RICHARD H. POUGH
American Museum of
Natural History.

Vice President:

F. RAYMOND FOSBERG
Falls Church, Virginia

Secretary:

DANIEL SMILEY
Mohonk Lake, New York

Treasurer:

JOSEPH J. HICKEY
University of Wisconsin

ERNEST BROOKS, JR.
Old Dominion Foundation

CONRAD CHAPMAN
Boston, Massachusetts

FRANK E. EGLER
Norfolk, Connecticut

ALBERT M. FULLER
Milwaukee, Public Museum

DEVIN A. GARRITY
Devon-Adair Company, N.Y.

C. M. GOETHE
Sacramento, California

G. B. GUNLOGSON
Racine, Wisconsin

WILLIAM HARD
New Canaan, Connecticut

PAUL A. HERBERT
Michigan State College

S. CHARLES KENDEIGH
University of Illinois

A. STARKER LEOPOLD
University of California

JEAN M. LINSDALE
Carmel Valley, California

ARMIN K. LOBECK
Columbia University

HERBERT A. MCCULLOUGH
Howard College

KARL A. MENNINGER
Topeka, Kansas

M. GRAHAM NETTING
Carnegie Museum

E. LAURENCE PALMER
Cornell University

ROBERT L. PERKINS, JR.
Tenafly, New Jersey

J. E. POTZGER
Butler University

JAMES B. ROSS
Atlanta, Georgia

ROBERT W. SCHERY
Marysville, Ohio

PAUL B. SEARS
Yale University

ADOLPH M. STEBLER
Oklahoma Cooperative Wildlife
Research Unit, Stillwater

JULIAN A. STEYERMARK
Chicago Natural
History Museum

WILLIAM VOGT
Planned Parenthood
Federation of America

ALVIN G. WHITNEY
Delmar, New York

Executive Director:
GEORGE B. FELL
Washington, D. C.

Nature Conservancy
4200 22nd Street, Northeast
Washington 18, D. C.

Date.....

Please include me (our organization) as a member. Enclosed is \$.....

☐ Individual

☐ Organization

A contribution of \$2 or more entitles you to annual membership with publications and one of \$100 or more to Patron membership.

Name

Address

City

Zone

State

The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific object is to preserve natural areas as "living museums" of the primeval wilderness. Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and esthetic values. They also afford a home for the multitude of kinds of living things that would otherwise vanish from the earth, destroyed by our civilization.

The work of the organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946 the Ecologists Union was formed to take over these tasks. In 1950 its name was changed to the Nature Conservancy.

We, the members of the Nature Conservancy, invite you to join with us in this work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.